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intelligence report

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If Reagan Wins

If Ronald Reagan is elected President in the forthcoming election, whom will he appoint to the top Cabinet and agency positions?

The guessing game is in full stride. Mentioned frequently for Secretary of State is George P. Shultz, 59, who served under Richard Nixon as Secretary of Labor, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and Secretary of the Treasury. Currently a vice chairman of Bechtel Inc. in California, a director of J.P. Morgan & Co. and other corporations, Shultz was educated at Princeton as an undergraduate, earned his Ph.D. in industrial economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and was dean of the Graduate School of Business at the University of Chicago.

Shultz is held in high regard by Valéry Giscard d'Estaing of France and Helmut Schmidt of West Germany, both of whom reportedly regard Jimmy Carter as appallingly indecisive and Reagan as dangerously inexperienced. Shultz would be welcomed and respected abroad.

Another possibility as Secretary of State is Henry "Scoop" Jackson, Democratic U.S. Senator from Washington. The rumor is that Reagan will offer Jackson the position in an effort to form a truly bipartisan Cabinet, including the best men he can get regardless of party affiliation. Jackson, 68, a Senator since 1952, is a staunch conservative in foreign policy and a veteran anti-Communist.

A third name in the Secretary of State sweepstakes belongs to William J. Casey, 67, manager of Reagan's campaign. Casey served as chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission under Richard Nixon and as a chief intelligence agent in the Office of Strategic Services in World War II.

Regardless of whom Reagan selects as his State Department chief if elected, he will surely appoint Richard Allen as his National Security Council adviser. Allen worked for Nixon in National Security until Henry Kissinger allegedly maneuvered him into resigning. Allen is a friend of Seymour Hersh, the former New York Times Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter, and he may have had access to Hersh's unfinished biography of Kissinger—a source which might well prevent Reagan from appointing Kissinger to any vital position or mission.

Reagan has a plethora of competent candidates for Secretary of the Treasury. The two leading lights at this writing are William Simon, 52, who served as Shultz's Deputy Secretary of the Treasury under Nixon and later as Gerald Ford's Secretary of the Treasury; and Caspar Weinberger, 63, HEW Secretary under Nixon and Governor Reagan's Director of Finance in California.

John Connally is another former Secretary of the Treasury who could easily hold down the same job in a Reagan Cabinet. Connally, however, seems slated to become

Secretary of Defense, which is probably why he recently made his first tour of Israel to see personally how perilous the Middle East situation really is.

Gen. Alexander Haig, who helped engineer President Ford's pardon of Richard Nixon, has also been mentioned as a possible Secretary of Defense. But Haig is recovering from coronary-bypass surgery, and it is more likely that Reagan will offer him the directorship of the Central Intelligence Agency and the other intelligence establishments.

One of the most important positions in any Presidential Cabinet is the Attorney General, who runs the Justice Department. Reagan's lawyer for the past 17 years has been William French Smith, 63, one of the senior partners of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, a prominent Los Angeles law firm. Smith is a trustee of the Ronald Reagan Trust, a personal family friend and tax adviser, and a shrewd, personable Republican who undoubtedly can have the job if he wants it.

No matter how and with whom he structures his Cabinet, Ronald Reagan will retain as his closest adviser in all matters his wife Nancy. His faith in her judgment of people, her assessment of situations, her advice on which course of action to pursue remains steadfast and inviolate. If Reagan obtains the Presidential mantle, it is she who will help direct his wearing of it.